

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing instant information service for a plurality of types of devices (13, 14, and 15) characterized by comprising:

network connecting unit (52) for fetching data from backend servers (41, 42, 43) and packaging the data into XML elements;

cache (53) for caching the XML elements in a document object model tree according to a cache strategy including at least one of depth, medium, weight, and scale, the XML elements formed by said network connecting unit (52) by packaging; and

controller (51), in response to a request for information service from at least one of the plurality of types of devices, for fetching relevant XML elements from cache (53), and for the XML elements that cannot be fetched from the cache (53), instructing the network connecting unit (52) to fetch corresponding data from backend servers and obtaining the XML elements formed by the network connecting unit (52) by packaging, and finally packaging all the fetched XML elements into a XML document and sending it back to the at least one of the plurality of types of devices.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the cache (53) comprises an indexing mechanism for creating indices for all the XML elements stored in the cache (53).

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3. (Currently Amended) A method of providing instant information to a plurality of types of devices (13, 14, and 15) characterized in comprising the following steps performed on a server of:

receiving a request for information service from at least one of the plurality of types of devices;

fetching XML elements which are relevant to the request for information service from a local cache (53), the XML elements being cached in a document object model tree according to a cache strategy including at least one of depth, medium, weight, and scale;

if no relevant XML elements are fetched from the local cache, fetching corresponding data from backend servers, packaging the data into XML elements in the local cache (53); and

packaging all the fetched XML elements into a XML document and sending it back to the at least one of the plurality of types of devices.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3, characterized by further comprising a step of creating indices for the XML elements stored in the cache (53).

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